

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-2, 4-9 and 11-22 will be pending in the present application, with claims 5, 6 and 17-19 having been withdrawn. By the present amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13-16 and 20-22 have been amended. No new matter has been added herein by the present amendment, as support thereof may be found in the current specification (referring to WO 2005/017054) at, *inter alia*, claim 3.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants point out that the amendments made herein are made without prejudice to the future prosecution of such cancelled, amended or modified subject matter in a related divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 16 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by US 5,348,763 ("Laroche"). Claims 14-15 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laroche, and further in view of US 5,039,718 ("Ashley et al."). Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 12, 16 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,316,535 ("Caldwell et al.") in view of US 6,669,835 ("Honnick"). Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned rejections should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

On page 5 of the previous Office Action mailed on May 11, 2010, the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 7 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the current amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 3 and to otherwise correspond to claim 3 as it was pending at the time of the May 11, 2010 Office Action. Dependent claims 2, 4-9, 11-16 and 20-22 all ultimately depend from claim 1, and thus include these limitations as well. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 have been overcome and should therefore be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that such action be taken. If for any reason the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application would be advanced by contact with the Applicants' attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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